

# An Inventory of a Few Human Traits

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How similar are you and your partner? Complete this inventory and compare it with your partner's.

1. number of noses: \_\_\_\_\_

2. detached earlobes: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

3. hitchhiker's thumb: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

4. sex: m \_\_\_\_\_ f \_\_\_\_\_

5. dimples: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

6. middigital hair: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

7. cross left thumb over right: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

8. hair color: black \_\_\_\_\_ dark brown \_\_\_\_\_ light brown \_\_\_\_\_  
blond \_\_\_\_\_ red \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

9. eye color: black \_\_\_\_\_ brown \_\_\_\_\_ hazel \_\_\_\_\_ blue \_\_\_\_\_ green \_\_\_\_\_

10. pierced ear or ears: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

11. wrist circumference: \_\_\_\_\_ centimeters (to nearest centimeter)

12. allergies: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

13. height: \_\_\_\_\_ centimeters (calculate by multiplying the height in inches  $\times$  2.5;  
round off to the nearest 5 centimeters)

# Thinking About Human Variation

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Work with your partner to answer the following questions.

1. Some human traits can be changed by human intervention and some cannot. Provide examples of each of these types of traits.
2. You probably already know that some traits are genetic and others are environmental. But most human traits reflect an interaction between genetic and environmental factors. Name some traits that might fall into this category and explain why you think they do.
3. Describe some of the benefits of human genetic variation. What are some of the potential problems that it can cause?